

EASTERN CONNECTICUT HITS THE BILLION MARK IN 1919

For the first time in the more than a decade in which the Bulletin has been compiling the business record of each year in the two counties of Eastern Connecticut, New London and Windham Counties, the grand total of the manufacturing, banking and jobbing business of those sections has gone into the billions.

The record for 1918 seemed of astonishing magnitude when it reached \$975,244,353, a record year to that time, but this figure fades into the background before the sum total for 1919 of \$1,184,498,679.

Wages in the cotton and woolen mills which are the big business producers of this territory, as well as wages in all other manufacturing lines, have been at a high scale all through the year, and the high price of manufactured product along with high wages has sent the figures leaping up the industrial thermometer, carrying along with them the banking and jobbing transactions to new heights.

New London County contributed \$864,370,841 to the grand total in 1919, where it had given \$669,405,812 in 1918. Windham County's business total in 1919 was \$320,127,838 as against \$305,839,541 in 1918.

The summary of the business of the two counties will be found on page eight, section one of this issue of the Bulletin.

BIGGEST BUSINESS YEAR IN NORWICH INDUSTRIES

Industrially Norwich saw in 1919 the greatest year that it has ever experienced in wages paid out to approximately 9,734 workers in its mills and manufacturing plants and in value of production from some 45 industries in the town and city.

The total payrolls of these concerns were \$3,285,240 in the past year where they showed \$2,665,582 in the year before, and value of product rose from \$2,822,394 to \$4,140,000. The total value of business done in 1919 was \$559,840 in manufacturing lines, an increase in proportion to the gain in wages and product.

In the cotton mills where 2,620 employees were at work, the wage disbursements increased from \$2,107,703 in 1918 to \$2,614,832 in 1919. Woolen mills employing 1,535 employees showed payrolls of \$1,442,000 as against \$989,000 in the year before, while their production rose for 1919 from \$7,729,000 as compared with \$5,745,000 the preceding year.

Another line of textiles, silk and rayon manufacturers, contributed \$1,211,500 to the big business of the year, pursuing \$991,007 in wages and value of product of \$2,200,000 in value of the figures were respectively \$1,000 and \$3,075,500 in 1918. The number of employees was 550.

Paper manufacturers and belting leather goods manufacturers, employing 299 workers, showed a business increase from \$500,000 to \$425,250 wages and from \$1,741,500 to \$2,000,000 in value of product. Foundry and iron work, employing 250, had a total payroll showing of \$246,500 which was a gain from \$177,000 the year before and their product was \$574,000.

The several factories producing metal goods, giving employment to 155, shared in the larger figures for 1919, having payrolls of \$152,300 and product value of \$180,000, which were respectively \$119,135 and \$427,500 in the year before.

In one line only, that of firearms and cutlery manufacturing, there are smaller figures to record, due to the shut-down of the Martin-Rockwell corporation factory for six months of

the year. However, the other concerns making firearms and cutlery all show bigger business than the year before. Approximately 2,620 people were given employment in these lines during the year and the wage disbursement was \$1,442,000 where it was \$989,000 in 1918 while product value was \$2,200,000 where it was \$1,741,500 the year before.

Approximately twenty manufacturing plants, large and small, in miscellaneous lines, employing 1,221, showed a larger year than ever with payrolls of \$1,162,000 as against \$879,379 in 1918 payrolls and \$4,425,000 in product value as against \$3,355,000 in 1918.

Machinery and marine work, the largest employing line of industry in the city, having about 3,100 employees paid out \$4,734,000 in wages in 1919 as compared with \$4,622,700 in 1918, and the product value was \$10,015,000. Boiler and iron working concerns, employing about 50 hands, paid out in wages \$121,000, gaining on the year before and turned out \$325,000 in product.

Mills handling silk and cotton goods, employing 2,775 people, had wage disbursements of \$1,380,000 in contrast to \$1,071,900 in 1918, while their product reached a total of \$7,445,000. Manufacturers of metal and iron goods were tremendous business gainers in the year, employing about 775 workers, and paying wages of \$1,022,000 which nearly doubled their figure of the year before. Their product was approximately \$2,692,000.

In the woolen industry employing

New London County Manufacturing For 1919

A Summary of the Manufacturing Business of New London County for the Year 1919, Showing the Approximate Wage Total, and the Value of the Products Turned Out.

	Norwich		New London		Other Towns	
	Wages	Value of Product	Wages	Value of Product	Wages	Value of Product
Cotton mills	\$2,618,852	\$13,070,000			\$956,000	\$3,785,000
Woolen mills	1,642,000	7,920,000	\$60,000	\$650,000	842,000	5,808,000
Paper and belting	423,250	3,830,000			476,800	2,510,000
Silk and velvet	891,007	7,260,000	1,380,000	7,445,000	467,000	2,171,000
Boilers and iron work	246,500	575,000	131,000	325,000	587,225	2,100,000
Metal goods, etc.	152,500	480,000	1,052,000	2,692,000		
Firearms, cutlery	1,149,131	3,769,600				
Machinery, shipwork			4,784,000	10,015,000	4,425,000	8,000,000
Other industries	1,162,000	4,495,000	1,097,260	2,650,000	1,257,000	22,549,000
Totals	\$8,285,240	\$41,400,600	\$8,504,260	\$23,777,000	\$9,146,025	\$44,820,000
Total wages						\$25,935,525
Total value of manufactured product						\$109,997,606

Windham County Manufacturing For 1919

A Summary of the Manufacturing Business of Windham County for the Year 1919, Showing the Approximate Wage Total, and the Value of the Products Turned Out.

	Willimantic		Putnam		Other Towns	
	Wages	Value of Product	Wages	Value of Product	Wages	Value of Product
Cotton mills	\$ 399,076	\$ 1,533,316	\$ 410,000	\$ 3,110,000	\$ 4,146,500	\$34,168,000
Silk, silk throwing	450,000	3,114,000	171,000	2,200,000		
Woolen mills			650,000	3,815,000	835,000	6,041,000
Iron, metal work	237,057	630,743				
Other industries	2,665,880	9,733,000	504,000	3,900,000	567,000	2,134,000
Totals	\$ 3,752,823	\$15,011,059	\$ 1,735,000	\$13,025,000	\$ 5,548,500	\$42,343,000
Total wages						\$11,036,323
Total value of manufactured product						\$70,779,059

50 the wage account was about \$60,000, while a miscellaneous classification of about 30 other industrial plants where about 1,711 workers are employed shows that they paid out in wages \$1,097,260 where their wage account was \$482,000 in 1918. These plants turned out product worth approximately \$2,650,000.

PUTNAM MANUFACTURING HAS BIG, BUSY YEAR.

Putnam's big mills which are the backbone of the manufacturing life of the city and vicinity were big contributors to the prosperity of that section of the state in the past year, all showing bigger business and greater payroll accounts than in 1918. The approximate total wage disbursement increased from \$1,450,000 in 1918 to \$1,735,000 in the year just past, while the value of manufactured product rose from \$8,525,000 to \$13,025,000.

In the cotton mills where the wages paid were \$410,000 there was an increase in this account of about \$35,000 over the year before and the product was \$3,110,000 where it was \$2,200,000 in 1918. Woolen mills which paid out \$650,000 in wages in 1919 showed \$350,000 in 1918, increasing their product from \$3,815,000 to \$3,900,000. Silk mills were another industry where the business gain was important, the wages going from \$131,000 to \$171,000 and the value of product from \$1,425,000 to \$2,200,000. In the miscellaneous industries the wage distribution was \$504,000 in 1919 in contrast to \$357,000 in 1918 and the product value was \$3,900,000 and \$2,134,000 respectively.

WILLIMANTIC INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCE BUSY YEAR. New high figures were recorded in Willimantic's manufacturing industries in the past year when the approximate total wage disbursement to about 4,000 wage earners was \$3,752,823, a gain of \$480,000 over 1918. The total value of manufactured product was \$15,011,059.

In the cotton mills of the city wages paid out were at an approximate total of \$399,076 as compared with \$316,188 the year before and the silk industry was an especially large factor in boosting the payrolls of the city. They paid out \$450,000 in wages as compared with \$237,057 in 1918 and the silk goods produced were valued at \$3,114,000 while the cotton mills turned out product valued at \$1,533,316 and paid \$399,076 in wages.

In machinery and foundry lines the wages paid were \$237,057 and the product amounted to \$630,743, an increase of \$37,589 in the wages account in the year. In a group of other varied industries the wage account put

\$2,665,880 into the pockets of Willimantic workers, an increase of \$251,080 over the year before, and the product value was \$9,733,000.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS NORWICH SERVICE STATION

The headquarters and facilities of the Norwich Chamber of Commerce are a general service station for the community. Several thousand visitors both resident and non-resident are handled annually. They are given such information as they may seek and accorded the most courteous treatment. This speaks well for the business men of Norwich who maintain such an institution. In addition to personal calls, thousands of letters are answered, giving information about our city. These, otherwise, would have to be answered by some of our leading business men, who, in the



FRANK J. KING
President

absence of the Chamber, would be the recipients of such mail. The headquarters are used constantly for both public and private meetings. The Chamber is truly a community center in this respect.

We finished this fourth year of Chamber of Commerce activities, with the largest members in on record and, in addition, a record of accomplishments worthy of an organization like ours. Some mistakes have been made and we may not have accomplished as

much as we should like to have done; but we have tried our best to do what ought to have been done, as it appeared to us, although we are conscious that we have not succeeded in every instance.

One hundred fifty-two new names have been added to our membership and twenty-two members have been lost through resignations, changes of residence and death.

Prominent speakers have been brought to the City of Norwich to influence and inspire the community. The sum of \$2,000 has been raised for the improvement of the Military Highway at Gates Ferry, and, through our encouragement, six new industries have located in Norwich during the past year.

We have also lent our co-operation and support to such activities as the Red Cross, Victory Loan, Tuberculosis Campaign, Salvation Army Campaign, Welcome Home to the Boys Returning from Service, New London County Farm Bureau and the War Camp Community Center and National Rique Association.

Assistance has been given to merchants, manufacturers and citizens in various ways.

The Chamber has secured the cooperation of a credit rating bureau in our city. The credit rating guides and files have been installed in the Chamber offices.

Our city was represented by the Chamber at Webster Lake on Mohican Trail Day and at the opening of the new bridge at New London. In addition delegates were sent to the State Chamber and the New England Association of Commercial Executives.

Committees are working on housing conditions and planning for a new industrial building. Progress is being made by the committee on the inspection of Electric Wiring, and also the committee on Increased Fire Protection.

The Chamber has gone on record as favoring a War Memorial to the Boys Returning from Service, and has lent its assistance in publicizing this important sentiment; has sent special communications to our senators and congressmen in regard to daylight saving, return of the telegraph lines to private ownership and other matters, encouraged members to support religious and fraternal organizations of the city and placed the Chamber in full sympathy with their forward movements.

The Merchants' Bureau and the Manufacturers' Bureau have met in the Chamber of Commerce rooms regularly each month and have accomplished much good for the members. We have cooperated with the State Chamber of Commerce in an attempt

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\$1,121,474 IN HIGHWAY WORK IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

Eastern Connecticut has much to point to in the way of highway improvement under the State Highway Department in the past year, including one project of state-wide interest and importance. This is the completion of the transformation of the old New Haven Railroad Bridge over the Thames River between New London and Groton from railroad to highway purposes, making it an important link in the highway system of the state in the southern tier of roads from east to west.

In the three counties, New London, Windham and Tolland, the total expenditures through the State Highway Department under the supervision of A. W. Bushell of Norwich, division engineer, have been \$1,121,474.74, which exceeds the previous year by about \$720,000. Of the 1919 expenditures, New London county had \$894,306.02, Windham county \$91,439.44, and Tolland county \$135,729.28. About half of the state's highway department expenditures on New London county were in changing the Thames River Bridge over for highway uses, this calling for \$450,000.

HIGHWAY WORK NEW YEARS.

NEW LONDON COUNTY.

Formal exercises conducted at noon on Wednesday Nov. 1, by the officials of New London and Groton opened to public use the highway bridge over the Thames river on which the state highway department had been at work for about a year in changing it over from railroad to highway uses. This called for an expenditure of \$450,000 in grading up the approaches, and laying concrete highways at both ends of the bridge, changing the draw, and laying the roadways for vehicular and foot traffic. This bridge, erected originally at a cost of \$1,000,000 by the New Haven railroad, had served the road for many years, but with the increasing weight of trains and locomotives a stronger bridge was needed by the railroad, which erected a new bridge a few hundred feet further down the river and turned over the old bridge to the state for highway purposes.

On the shore road in the town of Groton 13,875 feet of concrete road has been laid at a cost of \$100,576.52, and in Ledyard and Groton the completion of the east side river road has been completed by laying 22,727 feet of macadam at a cost of \$184,533.38. A piece of bridge work has been done in Ledyard by the widening of the bridge at Breakwater, which cost \$144,051.

Across the river in the town of Montville an appreciated improvement has been made on the Clifford road where 51,745 feet of macadam was laid at a cost of \$32,220.28.

In the trunk line system of the state the improvement of the Norwich to Westerly road has been begun, an important stretch of road that when completed will offer a fine highway from Norwich to the Rhode Island shore. This extends through the towns of Preston, Ledyard, Stonington and North Stonington. The part of the work that has already been done has called for the expenditure of \$61,399.45 on 51,943 feet of bituminous macadam construction.

The North Franklin road in the town of Lebanon has had 9,723 feet of macadam laid at a cost of \$13,800 and Bozrah street in the town of Bozrah has been improved by laying 2,800 feet of macadam at a cost of \$3,500, but this work has not been completed yet.

Completion of the Tatfield bridge on the Norwich-Lebanon road has been carried through at a cost of \$44,225.51 and the Newent road in the town of Lebanon has had 4,770 feet of macadam laid at a cost of \$12,000 with more work to be done before the road is completed.

WINDHAM COUNTY.

Expenditures of \$91,439.44 in Windham county have included a number of projects that will materially improve highways there. In the town of Plainfield work is still under way on the Canterbury road where 4,625 feet of screened gravel road has been laid at a cost of \$10,685, while the Westminster road in Canterbury is still incomplete. It is of the same construction, \$4,020.50 having already been spent on the stretch of 2,135 feet.

In the Killingly and Putnam section of the county, the Goodyear road in the town of Killingly has had 7,119.15 feet of bituminous macadam laid at a cost of \$26,440.97 and Grove street in Putnam, where the work is not yet complete, has had \$26,615.07 so far expended on a concrete highway. A stretch of macadam 4,800 feet on the Abington road in the town of Promet has been laid at a cost of \$15,255.27. A piece of work as yet only partially completed is the Brandy Hill road in the town of Thompson, 18,410 feet of bituminous macadam at a cost to date of \$14,490, while in Eastford the Phoenixville road has been laid in gravel at a cost of \$6,925.52.

TOLLAND COUNTY.

Tolland county has shared in the attention given to roads by the state highway department under which \$135,729.28 has been spent there in the past year. Most of it has been in the town of Mansfield. There has been the completion of the Stafford Springs road, 38,314.13 feet of screened gravel at a cost of \$124,575.59. The King hill road was graded for 800 feet at a cost of \$1,031.52 and the Warrenville road had 9,000 feet of screened gravel laid at a cost of \$9,551.73. Screened gravel was also the type of construction for 213 feet of road at the South Coventry railroad station, costing \$1,162.34.

Avon.—Rev. J. W. Moulton has received his appointment as census enumerator for the town of Avon.

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